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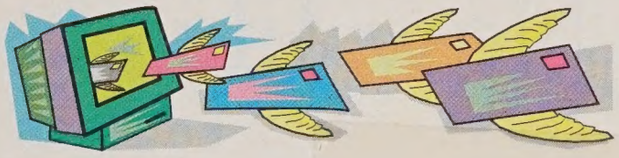
LETTERS



WAIS on the Internet no threat to commercial info brokers

The story "Internet of the future may be a one-stop information shop" (MacWEEK, Jan. 25) presented an accurate picture of some of what is fueling Internet's tremendous growth.

Network-based access to commercial information sources promises to follow the example of network-based electronic mail as one of the most compelling benefits of linking organizational LANs together.

However, the story seems to indicate that commercial publishers would offer their "crown jewels" on public-domain server software. The public-domain software was distributed as a catalyst to spur the development of information sources and to prove the WAIS (Wide Area Information Server) architecture on a global scale.

Commercial versions of the server software address commercial needs.

WAIS is an open system that is proving useful in commercial, academic and government environments. Based on a mix of commercial and freeware components, the Internet can provide even richer information resources than the story implied.

Brewster Kahle, president, WAIS Inc.
Menlo Park, Calif.